

that we can win this majority. Every single day when we did not believe, he kept pushing us to make the changes that we needed in ourselves to make this come about and make this happen.

There are many, many others. I will not go through them all today. Many have been alluded to, Jack Kemp and Barber Conable, my predecessors in Western New York, dear friends, great leaders. Tom Reynolds who is my first campaign chair who followed me to the assembly and seeking my seat in Congress today. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) who has been chairman of the Committee on Congress which I have had the honor to serve these past 6 years, and just a remarkable gentleman in every sense of the word.

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I would just leave with this thought. People wonder, why do you leave? Why does anybody leave? Members say this all the time. This is the greatest institution. It is the greatest fraternity. It is exciting. There are great challenges every day and there is a great future for this country that we can help shape.

I am leaving basically for four reasons. First, I think what I have said today, I am absolutely confident we are on the right track; that this body and this country are moving in sync for a change in the right direction. I leave confident knowing the next century is going to be another great American century because of what the American people want to happen translate into action by this Congress.

I leave, frankly, because I believe in term limits. When I was elected, I did not. I have come to believe in them. I think there is a time to move on. It is better to leave close to or at the top of your game then to sort of waste yourself out here. In my case, I felt that this has been the top of my game; that period in the leadership, that period that I had a chance to help work on those campaigns, and now I wish to step aside before I have overstayed my stay in my mind.

The third reason, of course, is we love to talk about being in the private sector, particularly as Republicans. However, many of us do not want to go out into the private sector, and I have not for 21 years. It is time to do that, to live under the laws we passed.

Last, but first and most importantly, I leave with something that overarches everything, that sense of family. It was noted that just over here in the corner where some of our Florida Members sit is where one afternoon I called my dear friend at the time, a woman who, we had been dating for a number of years, Susan Molinari, the love of my life, and I said I have to talk to you about something. A defense bill was on the floor. I said, "Come here I have to talk to you."

We got in the corner and we started talking, and I proposed to her. Every time I turn on C-SPAN and watch this

Chamber, I will remember that moment. I will remember it even more because she said, yes. I cannot believe she did.

I waited until later in life to start a family. We have that beautiful daughter of ours, Susan Ruby, who is just the most magnificent little girl in the world. I have the most beautiful wife one would ever want or could ever ask for, the most perfect spouse, and we are going to have another child in February.

It is time to put family first for us, and the way we lead our lives it would not work staying in this body. It would not be fair. My wife left last year. I am going to follow her out. We are going to enjoy being in the private sector. Most importantly, we are going to enjoy the time we can spend as our little kids grow up. These are precious moments and ones that I do not wish to miss.

I, again, just want to say to all of my friends and colleagues, thank you for indulging me here, to have this chance to speak. I have not often spoken. When I was in the county and state legislature, I could not shut up on the floor. Here I have tried to stay away. My focus has been elsewhere in this body.

I want to say thank you to my colleagues for taking this time out, for giving me the chance to say a few words because I was not going to speak. I would just wish you Godspeed as you continue your duties on behalf of this greatest country in the history of the world.

Mr. GILMAN. BILL, we wish you success and happiness and to all the Paxons, including little Ruby, who we watched grow up in the last few years, we wish you good health and happiness in the years ahead.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this special order on behalf of the gentleman from New York (Mr. PAXON).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. SCARBOROUGH (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts)

to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. SKAGGS, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. DELAURO, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. BECERRA, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. CARSON, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. MCGOVERN, for 5 minutes, today.
Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. ROEMER, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. SANCHEZ, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DOGGETT, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. MINGE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. PASCRELL, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. STABENOW, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. FURSE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. SHAYS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. REGULA, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. MILLER of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. RIGGS, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. TIAHRT, for 5 minutes each day, on today and October 14.
Mr. GOSS, for 5 minutes each day, on today and October 14.
Mr. WELLER, for 5 minutes each day, on today and October 14.
Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. PITTS, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. BASS, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. PAXON, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. FOSSELLA, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. BARTON of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes, on October 14.
Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, for 5 minutes, on October 14.
Mr. EHLERS, for 5 minutes, on October 14.
Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. SHAYS, for 5 minutes each day, on today and October 14.
Mr. THUNE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. NEUMANN, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to: